

In response to the non-final Office Action, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 47-49, 51 and 52 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

60. 121
61 60. (New) A method for screening candidate compounds capable of inhibiting HMGI biological activity which comprises the steps of:

- a) immobilizing an HMGI protein, or a fragment thereof, on a solid surface, wherein the fragment includes a biologically active region of the HMGI protein;
- b) incubating the HMGI protein, or the fragment thereof, with a candidate compound under conditions which promote optimal interaction;
- c) identifying candidate compounds which bind to the HMGI protein, or the fragment thereof;
- d) transfecting into a cell a DNA construct which contains a reporter gene under the control of an HMGI protein-regulated promoter;
- e) administering to the cell a candidate compound from step (c);

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- f) measuring the levels of reporter gene expression in the presence and absence of the candidate compound; and
 - g) determining from the levels of reporter gene expression which candidate compounds modulate the HMGI biological activity.

61. (New) The method according to claim 60, wherein the candidate compound inhibits HMGI biological activity in the amount of at least 10%.

62. (New) The method according to claim 60, wherein the candidate compound inhibits HMGI biological activity in the amount of at least 25%.